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COMMENTS

In the event that any fees are due, including any fees required under 37 CFR 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge the required fees to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 CFR 1.136 for the necessary extension of time.

DISCUSSION TOPICS FOR WEEK OF JULY 7

- I. Acknowledgement of priority under 35 U.S.C. Section 120
 - Present application is a Continuation of 09/368,808 and 09/368,809 both filed on August 5, 1999.
- II. Advantage of present invention
 - Oil is wicked faster than water allowing the sorbent material a longer float time.
 - Fibrous material may be either inorganic or organic (cellulosic)
 - Sorbent material "consisting essentially of" fibrous material and oleophilic coating provides improved floatability.
- III. Prior Art fibrous materials do not inherently exhibit faster oil sorption than water sorption as demonstrated in figures 1-4; page 5, line 1-36; page 7, lines 6-20; and page 11, line 14 through page 12, last line.
- IV. Chemical formula for polydimethylsiloxane is missing on page 9.
- IV. Proposed new claim:

A sorbent material consisting essentially of a fibrous material and a oleophilic coating, wherein the oleophilic coating is present on the surface of the fibrous material and wherein the sorbent material wicks Brass River crude petroleum faster than water.

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